

# HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT:

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1918.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The Population on which to estimate the Birth-rate is 13,711.

The Population on which to estimate the Death-rate is 12,237. There were two hundred and seventeen births, giving a rate of 15.8, as compared with a rate of 17.7 for England and Wales.

There were 169 deaths, giving a rate of 13.8, as compared with a rate of 17.9 for England and Wales.

There were eleven deaths of infants, giving a rate of 50 per thousand births, as compared with a rate of 97 for England and Wales.

Of these eleven deaths, five were due to non-preventable causes, one death was due to diarrhoea.

There were 105 boys born and 112 girls, and 24 of these births were illegitimate.

During the year Hitchin was visited by two widespread epidemics, one in the summer due to measles, and another in the autumn due to influenza. Though the measles epidemic was very prevalent, only two deaths were caused by it. The influenza epidemic in the autumn was severe, and forty-eight deaths resulted during the year from influenza and pneumonia. There were no deaths from other infectious diseases.

It is satisfactory to once more record a decline in the infant deaths. This together with the increased cleanliness of the schools is in my opinion largely due to the efforts of the Health Visitor. Thanks are also due from the Town to the Hitchin Maternity and Health Association for the result of its work. The Maternity Centre has now been taken over by the County Council with the assistance of a local Committee, and Dr. Helen Swatman, whose work is much appreciated, now visits the Centre once a fortnight.

The routine public health work and sanitary inspection has been carried on as usual during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN MACFADYEN.

